

Chief defends investigation

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EDMONTON (CP) — Edmonton police can't be faulted for not connecting the savage beating of a taxi driver less than half a block from where a woman was found dead, says the police chief.

"Based on the information that I've received to date, I believe that our officers did what they could do with the information they had at that time," Mike Boyd said Tuesday at a news conference.

"You must understand that the responding officers did not know who they were looking for after the assault occurred on the cab driver. They were not able to establish his proper identity and had no way of knowing that the suspect was connected to that address."

Kenneth Anthony Butler, 24, was charged Tuesday with aggravated assault in the attack on the cabbie and was ordered to undergo a 30-day psychiatric assessment.

He is also expected to face charges in the death of his sister-in-law, Stephanie Rae Butler, whom police believe was killed a short time after the cabbie was beaten.

Michael Butler attended the chief's news conference and told reporters he believes he and his wife were failed by the justice system.

He noted that he had called police earlier last week to complain of being harassed by his brother. Police arrested Kenneth Butler and imposed a restraining order to stay away from his brother's house. But he was released a short time later on \$300 bail.

"We were let down so hard, but it's not the police, it's more the government. The evil people win," said the grieving husband, who has alleged years of problems with his brother.

The 61-year-old taxi driver was in critical but stable condition in hospital Tuesday in a medically induced coma. His family was at his side.